



HEALTH & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 13, 2025 - 6:00 PM
Virtual Webex Meeting

Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Lewis Chang - **Absent**
Councilwoman Greenberg
Councilwoman Jones
Acting Police Chief Dolinac
Captain Acevedo- **Absent**
SORS Chief Rothstein
Ms. Davenport, Health Officer
Mr. Egelberg, OEM Coordinator
Mr. Battaglia, Village Engineer- **Absent**
Joycelyn White, Recording Secretary

Also in Attendance

Councilman Schnall
Julia Flath, WBRSO
Ralph Goduo, Van Cleef Engineering

Approval of Minutes

April 8, 2025

The meeting minutes for April 8, 2025, were approved by all committee members present.

General Discussion

Health Department Report

Health Officer Davenport discussed:

- May Mental Health Awareness Month
- New resource banner highlighting 9-1-1 emergency phone calls, non-emergency line, Crisis hotline: 2-1-1 Social Services, and poison control.

In response to Councilwoman Greenberg, Ms. Davenport stated that this information is posted by the South Essex Fire Department and the South Orange Rescue Squad facility.



OEM Report

Coordinator Egelberg reported on the following items:

- Ida Projects are finished, and the next step is to submit the documentation for the roads and receive the reimbursements.
- Currently working on South Orange's hazard mitigation plan. The first draft of the plan was finished and displayed on southorange.org until April 4, 2025. The county will be releasing a final draft soon.
- The mitigation plan ordinance was approved April 28, 2025.
- Coordinator Egelberg discussed attending the County OEM meeting on March 18, 2025.

Rescue Squad Report

Chief Rothstein highlighted the following item from SORS monthly report:

- SORS attended the Columbia High School Career Fair, where members discussed the Emergency Medical Services with students and parents.
- At the request of SHU, the rescue squad stood by at a concert at the Walsh Gymnasium with three ambulances and a supervisor vehicle.
- Ambulances 3-3 and 3-4 have MDTs installed which will enable those two ambulances to have CAD systems. This will allow the crew to:
 - Gain better knowledge on the call response. This can range from scene safety, to the condition of the patient. Any information that the 9-1-1 caller provides the dispatcher will now be viewable
 - Better triage calls when there are multiple calls happening in South Orange.
 - Track our units and know their statuses.

Police Department Report

• Mental Health Advocate Update

Acting Chief Dolinac discussed the April report:

- Part 1 Crime and clearance rate
- Calls for service
- Utilizing a State Grant for aggressive driving enforcement - extra duty details.
- Traffic Volume Studies - Lenox Avenue, West of Ridgewood, East of Ridgewood, and West Montrose Avenue
- Recap Global Entry Event
- Currently working on Motor Vehicle Commission Event. Details will be announced soon.
- Jr. Police Academy : July 28-August 1.



- National Night Out Planning - August 5 at Floods Hill.

Mental Health Advocate Update

- 16 total calls for service/ 9 calls during off hours.

Traffic/Engineering Report

In the absence of Mr. Battaglia, a report was read and discussed;

- West End Road sidewalks are completed. The roadway repair portion of the project is ongoing with final completion expected by June 1.
- West Montrose Avenue construction bids are due this coming Thursday, 05/15. This project includes pedestrian improvements at intersections and bike lanes.
- Lenox Avenue Improvements are being advertised for bid, with bids due 06/12. This project includes pedestrian improvements at intersections such as curb ramp upgrades and pedestrian islands.
- Vose Avenue Improvements are currently with NJDOT for final review. We expect to receive Authorization to Bid this week and will attempt to align bid receipt for the same day as Lenox Avenue. This project includes pedestrian improvements such as curb ramps, pedestrian bumpouts, and a raised intersection at Comstock.

Walk/Bike Ride South Orange Committee Update

There was no report.

Public Comments

The Chair opens the meeting for public comments.

[comments are limited to 3 minutes]

Richard Bell, SO. Resident

Rick Philip, SO. Resident

Julia Flath, SO. Resident

Alisa Aronson, SO. Resident

Ed Moore, SO. Resident

Alston McInerney, SO. Resident

The following public comments address concern for the Lenox Avenue Bid.

Next Meeting Date



June 10, 2025, TBD

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Joycelyn White, Recording Secretary